

CLAIMS

1. 1. A module management system for obtaining management information from a computing environment, the system comprising:
 3. A library of data miner modules each configured to access hardware and/or
 4. software entities in a computing environment for management information
 5. a library of module registration files each defining an implementation of a data miner module; and
 7. a module manager that provides access to each of said data miner modules stored
 8. in said library of data miner modules for which said library of registration files includes a
 9. corresponding registration file defining an implementation of said data miner module.
1. 2. The module management system of claim 1, wherein said module manager generates a list of data miner modules for which said library of registration files includes a corresponding registration file defining an implementation of said data miner module.
1. 3. The module management system of claim 1, wherein a plurality of registration files correspond and define a different implementation of one data miner module.
1. 4. The module management system of claim 1, wherein said module management system further comprises:
 3. a module specification file that specifies requisite components to be identified in
 4. said registration files to properly define a data miner module implementation,
 5. wherein said module manager provides access to said data miner modules for
 6. which said library of registration files comprises a registration file that specifies said
 7. requisite components in said definition of said data miner module implementation.
1. 5. The module management system of claim 4, wherein said registration file comprises:
 3. an element defining the data miner module for which said registration file defines an
 4. implementation; and
 5. an attribute list defining said implementation of said defined data miner module.

1 6. The module management system of claim 4, wherein, for those data miners having
2 registration files that comply with said module specification file, said module manager
3 retrieves from said library of data miner modules and stores said retrieved data miner
4 modules in an accessible memory location.

5

1 7. The module management system of claim 4, wherein said registration files are
2 verified by said module manager when said registration files are initially read by said
3 module manager.

1 8. The module management system of claim 4, wherein each registration file is verified
2 by said module manager when it is initially added to said library of registration files.

1 9. The module management system of claim 4, wherein said module specification file
2 is in a document type descriptor (.dtd) file format.

1 10. The module management system of claim 5, wherein said attribute list comprises:
2 a description of the referenced data miner module; and
3 a version of the referenced data miner module.

1 11. The module management system of claim 10, wherein said attribute list further
2 comprises:
3 a title of the defined data miner module; and
4 a path to the defined data miner module.

1 12. The module management system of claim 11, wherein said attribute list further
2 comprises:
3 a name of the vendor supplying the defined data miner module; and
4 a web site of said vendor.

1 13. The module management system of claim 12, wherein said attribute list further
2 comprises:

3 an indication of the type of output format for presenting said management
4 information generated by said defined data miner module, wherein said type of output is
5 either a narrow output for a summarized view or a wide output for a expanded view.

1 14. The module management system of claim 5, wherein said attribute list further
2 comprises:
3 an attribute indicating whether said defined data miner module supports a module
4 editing function.

1 15. The module management system of claim 5, wherein said attribute list further
2 comprises:
3 a path to a help file corresponding to said defined data miner module.

1 16. The module management system of claim 5, wherein said module manager
2 generates a list of data miner modules that have been successfully stored in local memory
3 and are thereafter available for execution.

1 17. A method for managing data miner modules in a service information portal of a
2 computing environment, the method comprising the steps of:
3 providing a database of portal data miner modules, each said data miner module
4 configured to extract or otherwise cause the generation of management information
5 related to managed entities in the computing environment;
6 providing a specification for a module registration file;
7 receiving a registration file that defines an implementation of a data miner
8 module;
9 verifying said received registration file satisfies said specification; and
10 providing access to said data miner modules for which said registration files
11 comply with said specification.

1 18. A service information portal for displaying customer-based portal view display of
2 networked computing environments, comprising:
3 a library of data miner modules each configured to access entities in the computing
4 environment for management information;

5 a module manager that provides access to each data miner module stored in said data
6 miner library that is registered with said module manager; and
7 a portal view profile that includes a reference to one or more of said data miner
8 modules.

1 19. The service information portal of claim 18, further comprising:
2 a library of module registration files each defining an implementation of a data
3 miner module;
4 wherein said module manager provides said access to each data miner module stored
5 in said data miner library for which said library of registration files includes a
6 corresponding registration file defining an implementation of said data miner module.

1 20. The service information portal of claim 19, wherein the end user can modify said
2 portal view profile to alter the manner in which said implemented data miner module is
3 executed.